ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Public Health Department

Annual Report 1956

ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mayors of Aberystwyth

1955/56.	1956/57.
Alderman W.G.Rowlands.	Alderman R.G.Pickford.

Committees dealing with Health matters

	Committee	Chairman	Members
(1)	Health & Housing Committee,	Alderman E.W.Roberts,	All Members of the Council.
(2)	Housing Sub-Committee,	Alderman E.W.Roberts,	Fourteen Members.
(3)	Public Works Committee,	Alderman R.J.Ellis,	All Members of the Council.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health,	....	I.Morgan Watkin, Ph.D.(Lond.); M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.(Wales). (January to September)
	....	Dulyn Thomas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (October to December)
Chief Public Health Inspector, Housing Inspector, Inspector of Meat and other Foods,	....	O.R.N.Hoskins, M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector,.. Housing Inspector, Inspector of Meat and other Foods,		D.J.A.Humphreys, (January to June)
	....	D.M.Lewis,M.R.S.H. (August to December)

Your Worship the Mayor, the Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee, Aldermen and Members of the Borough Council.

PREFACE

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1956. This is my first Annual Report since I took up office as your Medical Officer of Health on the 1st October last.

The number of live births registered during the year was one hundred and forty-four - an increase of thirty-one on the 1955 figure. Nine of these were illegitimate. Four stillbirths were registered, and seven infants died under the age of twelve months. No mother died as a result of childbirth.

One hundred and fifty-nine deaths were registered during the year - an increase of seventeen on the figure for the previous year. Fifty deaths were ascribed to heart disease, twenty-four to vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes), and thirty to cancer. Five deaths were accidental and another three due to suicide. The remaining deaths were due to a variety of causes.

The number of notified cases of tuberculosis was eleven. This is an increase of two on the 1955 figure, but compares favourably with the figures for previous years. One death was caused by tuberculosis.

In the field of infectious diseases there were two hundred and fifteen cases of Measles notified, forty-two cases of Whooping Cough and six cases of Dysentery. I am happy to report that no cases of Poliomyelitis or Food Poisoning were notified in the Borough. This is very reassuring considering that Aberystwyth is a popular seaside resort.

A more detailed account of the work of the Health Department will be found in the ensuing pages, including the report of the Public Health Inspector.

It is unfortunate that curtailment of capital expenditure prevented us from building any new houses during the past year.

Some progress has been made in bringing food premises up to the standard required under the 1955 Food and Drugs Act. We shall ensure that this progress is maintained in the future. I would also refer to the comprehensive report submitted on the state of the Abattoir and express the wish that the necessary reconstruction can be carried out in the near future.

I wish to thank you Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Council for the kind welcome you have extended to me. I wish to state that the two Public Health Inspectors have given me every assistance in the performance of my duties.

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SUMMARY OF GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1,141,
Population (Census 1951)	9,315.
Population (Registrar General's Mid-Year 1956)	10,410.
Rateable Value at 1st April 1956	£190,495.
Rateable Value at 1st April 1957	£171,667.
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April 1956.. ..	£636.
Estimated sum to be obtained by a penny rate at 1st April 1957..	£580.

Number of various premises at 1st January 1956

Domestic.	
Houses and Flats (other than Agricultural Dwelling-Houses) ..	2,655.
Agricultural Dwelling-Houses	6.
Commercial.	
Shops with Private Dwelling Accommodation	132.
Shops (including Banks in shopping areas) and Cafes ..	152.
Offices (including Banks in office areas)	70.
Hotels and Boarding Houses	38.
Holiday Camps and Caravan Fields	2.
Warehouses, Stores and Workshops (Non-Industrial) ..	108.
Garages (Commercial) Petrol Filling Stations and Car Parks ..	49.
Lock-up Garages	123.
Markets	2.
On-Licensed Premises.	
Public Houses	26.
Restaurants	1.
Entertainment and Recreational.	
Cinemas	2.
Theatres and Music Halls	1.
Sports Grounds	5.
Social Clubs, Community Centres and Public Halls ..	16.
Other places of entertainment	5.
Public Utility.	
Water, Gas, etc., ...	3.
Educational and Cultural.	
Libraries, Museums, etc., ...	2.
Schools and Colleges, etc., (Local Authority)	6.
Schoold and Colleges, etc., (Non-Local Authority) ..	3.
University Colleges	21.
Miscellaneous.	
Crown Property (including National Health Hospitals) ..	29.
Other Hospitals, etc., ...	2.
Cemeteries	1.
Town Halls and Municipal Offices	4.
Road Transport - Depots and Yards	1.
Properties not classified	27.
Industrial.	
Factories and Workshops	13.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	Male	Female
Number of registered live births ..	Leg:	135	72	63
	Illeg:	9	8	1
Number of registered still births ..	Leg:	4	3	1
	Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year ..	Leg:	7	4	3
	Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks..	Leg:	6	4	2
	Illeg:	-	-	-
Number of deaths of women ascribed to childbirth ..		Nil		
Number of registered deaths		159	79	80
Areal comparability factor for births		1.09		
Areal comparability factor for deaths		0.83		

CAUSES OF DEATH

Registrar General's Code Number	Cause of death	Number of deaths Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	1	-	1
2	Tuberculosis, other ..	-	-	-
3	Syphilitic disease ..	-	-	-
4	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5	Whooping cough	-	-	-
6	Meningococcal infections ..	-	-	-
7	Acute poliomyelitis ..	-	-	-
8	Measles	-	-	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	4	1	5
11	Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus	1	-	1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	-	6	6
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	-	1	1
14	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	9	8	17
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..	-	-	-
16	Diabetes	2	2	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervious system	8	16	24
18	Coronary disease, angina ..	10	7	17
19	Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5
20	Other heart disease ..	12	16	28
21	Other circulatory disease ..	1	2	3
22	Influenza	-	1	1
23	Pneumonia	4	2	6
24	Bronchitis	3	3	6
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	1	-	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	1	2	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	2	-	2
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31	Congenital malformations ..	1	-	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	9	19
33	Motor vehicle accidents ..	1	-	1
34	All other accidents ..	4	-	4
35	Suicide	3	-	3
36	Homicide and operations of war..	-	-	-
	Total ..	79	80	159

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is a list of the notifications of infectious disease, other then tuberculosis, received during the year.

Cholera	-
Diphtheria	-
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary). ..	6
Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	-
Food poisoning..	-
Malaria	-
Measles	215
Meningococcal meningitis	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-
Paratyphoid fever	-
Plague	-
Pneumonia (acute primary and acute influerzal)	-
Poliomyelitis	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Relapsing fever	-
Scarlet fever	-
Smallpox	-
Typhoid fever	-
Typhus fever	-
Whooping cough	42

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the sex and age distribution of the new cases notified during the year.

AGE GROUP	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 4	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	1	-
15 - 19	-	2	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	1	1	-	-
35 - 44	-	4	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-
65 - 74	1	-	-	-
75 +	-	-	-	-
Totals :-	3	7	1	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

They are as follows :-

(a) An ante-natal and post-natal clinic is held fortnightly at the Health Department, Swyddfa'r Sir. The new consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology has been discussing with the local health authority the question of providing an ante-natal clinic under the aegis of the Regional Hospital Board. This would be infinitely preferable to the present arrangement as X-ray facilities would be available at these examinations. The district midwife would be requested to attend with the patient so that she would become fully conversant with all the medical aspects of the case prior to delivery.

(b) Infant welfare clinics are held twice weekly at Swyddfa'r Sir and fortnightly at the Neuadd Goffa, Penparcau. A few Aberystwyth residents find it more convenient to attend the fortnightly clinic held at the Church Hall, Llanbadarn.

(c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by two district nurses who are also certified midwives.

(d) The Borough is covered by two Health Visitors, one of whom devotes her entire time to the Borough area whilst the other also covers part of the surrounding Rural District.

(e) Home nursing is in the hands of one nurse who devotes her entire time to nursing and two district nurse-midwives.

(f) Vaccination against smallpox is carried out by the person's own doctor but immunisation against diptheria is performed partly by the former and partly by the local health authority. The County Council has presented no scheme for whooping cough immunisation. B.C.G. immunisation is carried out on school children of a selected age group and upon those who have been in intimate contact with a case of tuberculosis and who display susceptibility to the disease.

(g) The headquarters of the ambulance service are at Aberystwyth. Three ambulances and a county relief ambulance are stationed in the town.

(h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist of periodic talks and advice given by the staff of the local health authority. Care and after care are in the hands of the health visitors and the district nurses.

(i) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons engaged locally. There are no full-time Home Helps in the Borough.

(j) Aberystwyth Hospital is the principal general hospital in the area of the Mid-Wales Hospital Management Committee. The infectious diseases' unit is situated a short distamce from the town at Tanybwlch Hospital. The mental hospital normally serving the area is St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The laboratory has continued to carry out bacteriological examinations of water, ice-cream and other articles of food. Consultations with Dr.H.V.M.Sudds, the Director of the Laboratory, on problems of mutual interest have assisted in the maintenance of a high standard of food hygiene in the town.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

In accordance with the International Sanitary Regulations, (World Health Regulations No.2) to which Great Britain is a signatory power, twenty-four international vaccination certificates of persons residing in Aberystwyth and proceeding to certain destinations overseas were authenticated in the prescribed manner.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

New employees of the Council were medically examined during the year to ascertain their fitness for acceptance, either under the Superannuation Acts, or under the Council's Sick Pay Scheme.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

This section gives the local authority power, on the Certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for the removal of persons unable to devote to themselves and not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Persons dealt with under this section must either (a) be suffering from grave chronic disease or (b) be aged, infirm or physically handicapped and living in insanitary conditions.

Action was taken under this Act in respect of two elderly ladies who were removed to Bronglais Hospital, Aberystwyth.

GENERAL

The second half of the report, with which I concur, is prepared by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Dulcyn Thomas.

Medical Officer of Health.

Swyddfa'r Sir,
(Council Offices)
Aberystwyth.

Tel: Aberystwyth 7581-9.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To The Mayor, Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee,
Aldermen, and Members of the Aberystwyth Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I have once more the privilege of submitting my part of the Annual Report.

The year has been rather difficult due to staff changes and the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations. It should be recorded that the work which has been achieved is due to the co-operation of the Staff and represents a team effort.

The support of the Council in many difficult matters has been very much appreciated.

STAFF

The staff of the Department consists of :-

Chief Public Health Inspector,	..	O.R.N.Hoskins, M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector,	..	D.J.A.Humphreys, (January to June)
	..	D.M.Lewis, M.R.S.H. (August to December)
Clerical Officer,	..	W.D.James,
Rodent Officer,	..	C.Y.Jones,

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Enforcement

Complaints received	94
Complaints not justified..	5
Matters referred to other Departments for abatement ..	120
Preliminary Notices served	67
Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	3
Number of premises in which defects were remedied as the consequence of informal action	75
Number of representations made to the Local Authority :-	
(a) Statutory Notices applied for	16
(b) (i) Closing Orders applied for	1
(ii) Demolition Orders applied for	2
Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works	16
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	21
Number of (a) Demolition Orders made	2
(b) Closing Orders becoming effective ..	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil
Nuisance Orders issued	2
Nuisance Orders complied..	2
Factory Act Notices served	2
Factory Act Notices complied	2
Number of dwellings visited re overcrowding	Nil
Number of dwellings overcrowded	Nil
Number of houses inspected (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	212
Number of houses re-inspected (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	298
Visits for infectious disease	36
Disinfections	23
Factories.	
Non-power :- Bakehouses	2
Dressmakers and Milliners.. ..	2
Laundries	Nil
Miscellaneous	1
Power :- Bakehouses	Nil
Laundries	Nil
Miscellaneous	4
Work Places, other than offices	Nil
Offices	Nil

Other classifications

Tents, Vans, Sheds or similar structures	3
Cinemas and Amusement Places	1
Public Houses and Licensed Premises	39
Water supply and sampling visits	121
Refuse Tips	1
Accummulations	6
Drains	63
Water Courses	3
Public Conveniences..	1
Cesspools	2
Flooding	14
Smoke or grit observations	2
Inspections for infestations	13
Number of premises found verminous	12
Slaughterhouse visits	563

Food inspection

Milk Regulations, Dairies, Milkshops & Purveyors visits ..	13
Ice-cream premises and vehicles (Inspection & sampling) ..	36
Restaurants and Food Preparing premises	8
Food Shops, Stores and Markets	30
Butchers	4
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	3
Railway Station re food	4
Food Regulations and Bye-laws visits	154
Fried Fish Shops	1

Shops Act, 1950

Shops inspection	12
Visits not classified	240

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED

Houses

Minor repairs completed	19
Dirty of verminous conditions remedied	3
Walls repaired	5
Outside plastering repaired	2
Inside plastering repaired	9
Floors renewed or repaired	2
Roofs renewed or repaired	7
Chutes, downpipes or gutters renewed or repaired ..	16
Chimneys repaired	6
Ceilings repaired	3
Doors and frames repaired	2
Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired ..	3
Staircase renewed	1
Grates or ovens repaired or renewed	2
Wash boilers provided..	1
Yard paving relaid or repaired	1
Accummulations removed	7
Water supply provided..	1

Drainage.

Drains tested, Water	8
New drains constructed	4
Drains re-laid or repaired	7
Drains cleansed	9
Drains under a house abolished	1
Inspection or Intercepting chambers provided ..	3
Inspection or Intercepting chambers repaired ..	1
Soil pipes or Vent shafts fixed or repaired ..	1
Gullies fixed or repaired	1
Disconnections of domestic waste from rainwater pipes	1
Troughs or sinks provided	4
Sink waste pipe provided or repaired	6
Water taps or pipes repaired	1
Baths provided	1
Baths waste trapped or repaired..	2
Lavatory basins provided	1

Water Closets

W.C.'s reconstructed or repaired	8
New pans fixed	5
Flushing apparatus provided	7
Flushing apparatus repaired	4
Water supply provided	1
Cesspools emptied	2

Works executed, continued.

Factory Act, 1937.

Sanitary accommodation found insufficient ..	1
Sanitary accommodation not separate for sexes ..	1
Provision of W.C.'s	1

Licensed Premises.

Sink provided	1
Bar redecorated	1
Urinal flush provided	1
Yard repaired	1
Walls and ceiling repaired	1

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act 1936.

Licences issued authorising land to be used ..	1
Licences issued authorising persons to use ..	1

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

There are seventy-two factories established in the Borough, sixty-three of these are power operated and nine non-power. In the power operated, except for sanitary accommodation the Ministry of Labour and National Service are responsible for enforcement of legislation. In non-power factories responsibility is vested in the Local Authority for cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors. During the year three premises were the subject of change of circumstances, two being removed and one added to the register.

HOUSING.

The housing position has not eased greatly during the year and 477 applications were on the Housing List at the end of the year. The great majority consist of those with one child or without children. New applications were 108 and consisted of 282 persons at time of submission.

Twenty-seven new lettings provided accommodation for seventy-nine persons and in addition eight family units consisting of thirty persons were transferred to make better use of existing accommodation. One hundred and nine persons were therefore housed during the year.

No municipal dwellings were erected during the year. Four private dwellings were erected.

MEAT INSPECTION (ABATTOIR)

The slaughter and inspection of animals, both ante and post-mortem, at the Abattoir was as set out in the table below.

Aberystwyth Abattoir.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Total
Number of animals killed ..	1,012	2,220	22,889	2,921	1	29,043
Percentage of Total. All diseases except T.B. Whole carcases condemned ..	20	32	76	14	1	12,075 lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	486	9	974	42	-	4,319 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ..	49.91%	1.85%	4.59%	1.92%	100%	
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned ..	16	-	-	-	-	6,014 lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	62	-	-	10	-	2,270 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	7.71%	-	-	.34%	-	
Total weight of meat condemned at Abattoir						24,678 lbs.

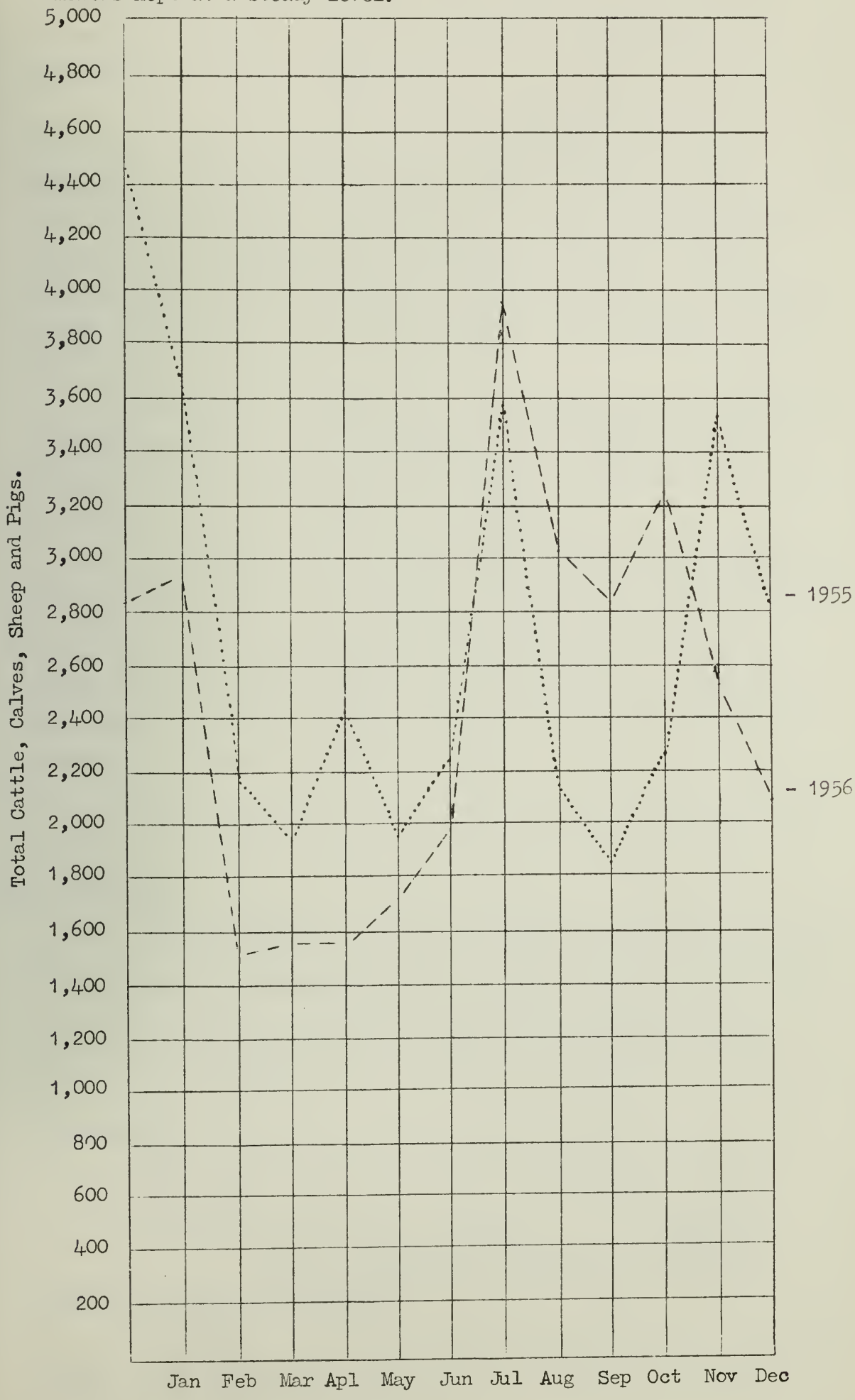
The number of visits for the purpose of meat inspection totalled 563. The abattoir has been the subject of a very detailed report on its present function and structural condition and the possibility of reconstruction is being investigated. It not only serves the needs of the Borough, but also that of the surrounding area from New Quay to Barmouth, and in addition large quantities of meat are processed for despatch by road and rail mainly to London.

All meat is inspected before leaving the premises and where necessary specimens are submitted for veterinary investigation. The premises are large for their type and provide employment, whole and part-time, for twenty persons. As will be seen from the figures above nearly 30,000 animals were handled.

Routine examination is also carried out to detect the presence of C.Bovis, but for the second year running no trace has been discovered. Only one case of Bowel Odema in pigs was found. The T.B. reactors found by the officers of the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in the county were dealt with by detailed examination and disposed in accordance with regulations. Sixteen carcases of beef were found to be so widely affected with tuberculosis that total condemnation was necessary. In addition sixty-two part carcases of beef had to be condemned out of a total of 118 reactors. The work of detailed post mortem examination as to fitness for human consumption was carried out in each case by your meat inspectors.

ABATTOIR

The graph below shows the fluctuation of slaughtering through the year. From June until December the rate was high and even the spring months kept at a steady level.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Regulations.

Food premises of various types, but excluding hotels and boarding houses, number 120 and so far as can be ascertained employ nearly 450 persons. Already each of the premises has been visited and leaflets distributed explaining the Act and supported by preliminary discussions in each case.

Improvement is slow and only in a few cases have more progressive traders started to meet the requirements of the new Regulations. It would seem that many regard the matter casually and it appears that each case will have to be dealt with separately. The majority of the premises are quite small and many enforcement problems exist, not the least of these being the difficulty of finding suitable positions for sinks and washbasins, and convincing the trader that the Regulations apply to his premises.

Considerable improvement has however been obtained by securing the protection of foodstuffs from floor level contamination and by covering exposed foods, however, some enlightened persons have provided refrigerated windows or other improved storage.

No Clean Food Guild exists but the Towns Womens Guild and the Womens Institute have been addressed on the subject, and the Department is always prepared to accept any invitations in this sphere. It is a matter for regret that publicity material in the way of colour film strips are not apparently available, but progress has been made with the valuable help of the Visual Aids Section of the County Education Department, who have kindly lent equipment.

Registered premises for the manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale now total eight.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Food premises were visited and inspected on numerous occasions. Foods found to be unsound were inspected both at the traders premises, or submitted to the Department. It is worthy of note that many traders voluntarily produce suspect food for inspection and condemnation certificates are issued where appropriate. The co-operation being achieved is most welcome.

Condemnations.

Fresh and canned meat and meat products ..	1,182 lbs.
Fish, wet	52 lbs.
Canned and Miscellaneous condemned.. ..	1,695 lbs.
Total of foodstuffs condemned ..	2,929 lbs.

Disposal of condemned foodstuffs.

Condemned food is disposed by puncture and burial in the case of most canned goods, whilst dried foods and remaining canned goods are destroyed by incineration.

ICE-CREAM

Sampling showed an improvement and 96% of all samples fell in Grades 1 and 2. The only instance of a Grade 3 sample traced to structural alterations which affected the routine and the human error became involved.

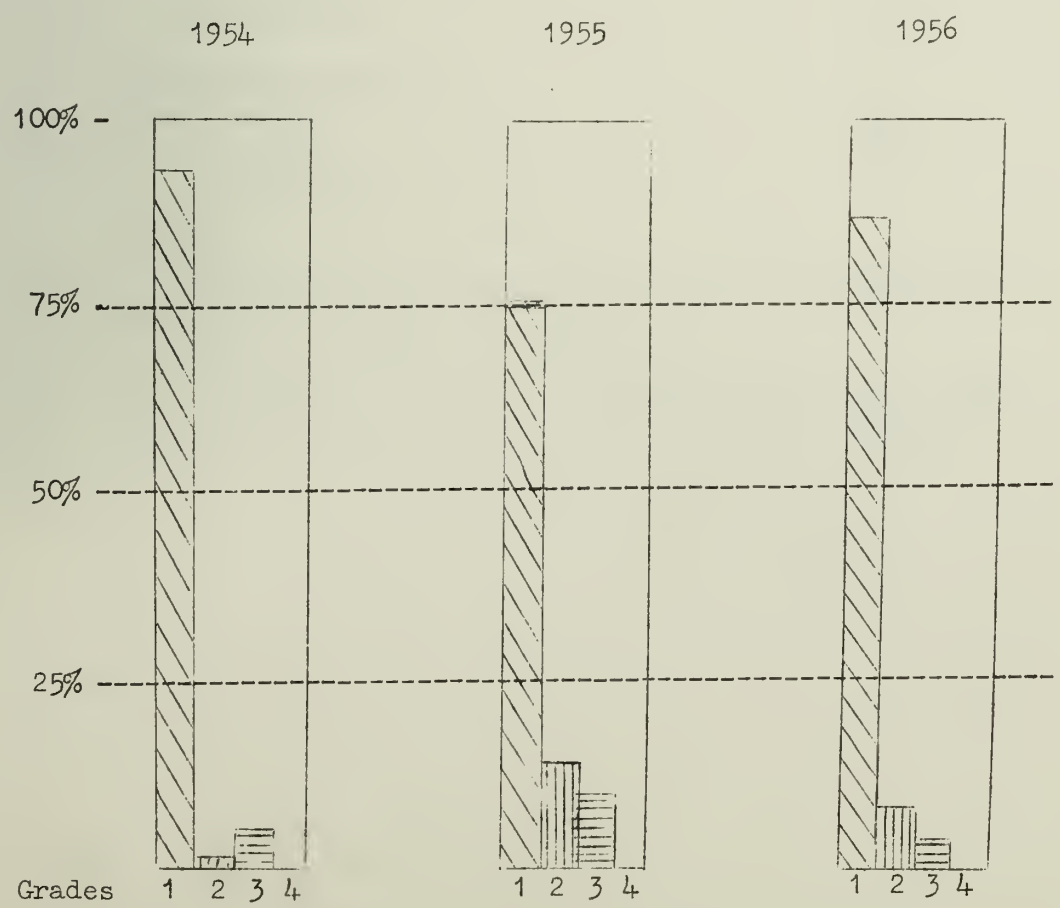
Number of registered premises in area of Local Authority = 48
Number of kiosks in area of Local Authority = 3 } = 51.

During the year twenty-four samples of ice-cream were taken and the following results obtained :-

Grade 1	= 21 =	87.5%	= 96%
Grade 2	= 2 =	8.5%	
Grade 3	= 1 =	4%	
Grade 4	= 0 =	0%	
	24		

In addition to the foregoing, one sample of an ice-lolly was taken and found to be satisfactory.

Comparative index of ice-cream samples for past three years



WATER

Bacteriological.

The Department has continued to take a minimum of two samples weekly of drinking water at various points within the Borough. The results of the bacteriological analysis, which are carried out at the Area Laboratory of the Medical Research Council, are shown below.

Number of samples taken	=	106.
'Highly Satisfactory'	=	104.
'Unsatisfactory'	=	2.

Chemical.

A sample was taken and submitted to the Public Analyst who reported as follows.

From:- Llanbadarn Service Reservoir. Taken from bulk.

Appearance	Clear and Bright
pH Value	7.1
pH S	7.5
Saturation Index	-0.4
Colour (Hazen Units)	0
	Parts per 100,000
Free Ammonia	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil
Chlorides, as Cl_2	1.0
Calculated as Common Salt	1.65
Total Solids	4.7
Nitrates	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen consumed at 27°C.	
In 4 hours	0.072
In 15 minutes	0.041
Additional Features :-	
Lime, as CaO	0.33
Total Alkalinity, as $CaCO_3$	1.5
" Hardness	1.0

Remarks

This was an extremely soft water, it exhibited some tendency to attack metal surfaces.

Chemically it was of a very high degree of purity. It contained no nitrogenous substances; the small amount of organic matter present being of vegetable origin.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

There are three dairy farms within the Borough, but the responsibility for milk on these premises is that of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Dairies (not being dairy farms) number eight and the registered Distributors number twenty-seven.

Dealers operating under Licence or Supplementary Licence number nine.

Milk supplies are drawn mainly from the County of Cardigan which is of course in a Tuberculin Tested area, and smaller quantities are drawn from outside the County. Much of the local milk being consumed is now "Pasteurised", but small quantities consisting of ungraded raw milk or Channel Island milk are sold untreated. The quantity of loose milk now being sold has dropped very considerably and it is doubtful whether the public will much longer support this method of distribution. It is not liked by the distributors who merely meet a demand for cheaper milk by a small section of the public.

As the result of milk sampling three samples were submitted to the Laboratory and all proved up to standard.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 - 1954.

One new licence was issued to a slaughterman, and eight licenses were renewed.

LICENSED VICTUALLING AND CLUBS.

No extensive works were found necessary during the year and no complaints were received in respect of any premises. The Food Hygiene Regulations however will make certain work necessary to conform with the requirements. The general standard of cleanliness is very good and all premises have hot and cold water laid on to sinks, also sanitary accommodation for both sexes.

The Licensing Justices again asked for areport before renewing the licenses and have continued to show a most helpful interest in the hygiene of the premises.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfector boiler has been provided and for the first time in a number of years an emergency can be faced with the necessary equipment for disinfection. Internal decoration of the disinfection building has also been carried out and the premises are much improved. The transportable container used for the removal and return of infected bedding etc., has been overhauled and is ready for immediate use when required.

Disinfection was carried out in twenty cases of infectious disease. Two additional cases of non-notifiable disease were disinfected and charges were made for the work. Library books which had been exposed to infectious disease and submitted to the Department were disinfected and returned to the library.

PEST ACT, 1949.

Rats and Mice

1st April 1956 to 31st March 1957	Owned by Local Authority (Non-domestic)	Dwelling houses (Local Authority and Private)	Other premises (Business and Industrial)	Total
Number of premises	12	2,661	845	3,518
Inspected as the result of :- (a) Notification	7	67	20	94
(b) Survey under the Act	4	416	38	458
(c) Otherwise	-	2	-	2
Total inspections & reinspections	117	781	193	1,091
Infested by mice	4	60	10	74
Infested by rats	7	27	12	46
Treated	11	87	22	120

Sewer baiting was carried out twice during the year as prescribed by the Ministry. This consisted of raising each manhole, inspecting, pre-baiting and poisoning. The work appears effective as no major infestation have been detected for some years. Such infestation that has been discovered is of a minor character. Manholes number 340 and the work of lifting these has been much eased since the lifting gear was acquired. Some modification has been carried out with the aid of toll boxes fixed on the truck and these have still further reduced the labour of lifting and transporting tools.

Infestation complaints totalled 120, consisting of 46 rat and 74 infestations by mice. Abatement action was taken in each instance.

Disinfestation - vermin.

Twelve business and domestic premises were treated for infestation by fleas, bugs and ants. Charges were made for the work and advice was given where required.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This is the responsibility of the Public Works Department under the control of the Borough Surveyor. Domestic refuse, trade refuse and salvage are collected at least once a week and more frequently as required by covered motor vehicles. Tipping is carried out at Felin-y-Mor and covering material spread by machine to prevent nuisance.

The miscellaneous collection of receptacles used for the deposit of refuse awaiting collection continues and many premises have no proper bins.

CESSPOOLS

Fifty-one dwellings in the Borough are not connected to the sewerage system. Whilst some of these give no cause for complaint a number of the remainder are potential nuisances. Two cesspools were inspected and arrangements made for their cleansing by the Corporation. It may be appropriate to refer to the Minute of the Health and Housing Committee held on the 25th January 1938, wherein it was "Resolved that cesspools be cleansed by the Corporation at the request of owners or occupiers under the Public Health Act 1936, section 74, once every three months without charge, subject to the proviso that the Sanitary Inspector shall first inspect the cesspools and also that the Corporation shall not be responsible for any damage which may be caused".

HEALTH CONGRESS, ROYAL SOCIETY OF HEALTH
Blackpool, 24th to 27th April, 1956.

The Chief Public Health Inspector attended as your representative and following the opening of the Congress, the undermentioned papers were used as a basis for discussion.

"Public Health Practice; an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" by Huntington Williams, M.D., DR.P.H., HON. F.R.S.H., and Sir Allen Daley, M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

"Food Hygiene" by Joseph G. Molner, M.D., M.P.H.

"Hygienic Conditions in Barbers' and Hairdressers' Establishments" by W.H.Wattleworth, F.R.S.H.

"Public Health and the Railways" by J.V.Walker, M.D., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

"Some aspects of Railway Hygiene and Their Background" by G.E.Graves Peirce, M.B., B.S. F.R.C.S.

"Problems of Hygiene in Aviation" by K.G.Bergin, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., F.R.AE.S.

"Clean Air - The Reduction of Smoke Emission from Industrial Boilers" by T.E.Hurley, O.B.E., B.SC., A.M.I.C.E.

"Clean Air - The duties of Sanitary Inspectors and Local Authorities" by C.A.Saword, D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

This concludes my report.

I am Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
C.R.Williams
Chief Public Health Inspector.

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